

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON  
ORDINANCE NO. 2017-04  
FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET**

**TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAX FOR THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2017 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2018; TO PROVIDE FOR EXECUTION OF AND TO PUT INTO EFFECT THE CONSOLIDATED BUDGET; AND TO PROVIDE BUDGETARY CONTROL OF THE TOWN'S FISCAL AFFAIRS.**

**BE IT ORDERED AND ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON, SOUTH CAROLINA:**

**SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.**

Funds are hereby appropriated as shown in the Consolidated Budget, the documents attached hereto and incorporated for reference as Attachments A, B, C, D, and E establishing a Consolidated Budget of \$36,759,268 consisting of the General Fund of \$19,937,075; the Stormwater Fund of \$1,554,931; the Capital Improvements Program Fund of \$12,991,240; and the Debt Service Fund of \$2,276,022.

**SECTION 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROPERTY TAX LEVY.**

A tax to cover the period from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, inclusive, for the sums and in the manner hereinafter mentioned, is and shall be levied, collected and paid into the Treasury of the Town of Bluffton for its uses at a rate of mills on assessed value of real estate and personal property of every description in the Town of Bluffton, except such property as is exempt from taxation under the United States Constitution and laws of the State of South Carolina. Said tax levy shall be collected by Beaufort County Treasurer and paid into the County Treasury for the credit of the Town of Bluffton for its corporate purposes a general fund levy of 37.00 mills and a debt service fund levy of 3.35 mills for at a total levy of 40.35 mills

**SECTION 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF A MASTER FEE SCHEDULE.**

A Master Fee Schedule listing all fees charged by the Town for Fiscal Year 2018 is included and incorporated for reference as Attachment E.

**SECTION 4. OUTSTANDING BALANCE APPROPRIATION AND ENCUMBRANCES.**

The unobligated balance remaining from the prior fiscal year hereby remains in the fund and will be available for Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations.

Fiscal Year 2017 encumbrances of the Fund Balance will be provided for through a subsequent amendment of this budget ordinance to increase the funds from previous years and increase the appropriated budget expenditures.

## **SECTION 5. TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND AMENDMENTS.**

The Town Manager or his designee is authorized to transfer any sum from one budget line item to another or from one department or division to another provided that no such transfer be made from one fund to another fund, conflict with any existing Bond Ordinance, or conflict with any previously adopted policy of Council. Changes or amendments that alter the total expenditures of any fund must be approved by Council.

## **SECTION 6. CONTRACTS.**

The Town Manager or his designee is authorized to execute contracts on behalf of the Town within budgeted amounts. Contract amounts greater than that budgeted shall be subject to Council approval. All contracts greater than \$100,000 shall be subject to Council approval.

## **SECTION 7. RATE OF EXPENDITURES.**

The Town Manager shall control the rate of expenditures within the Consolidated Budget so as not to exceed the amount of funds on hand. Any proposed tax and/or revenue anticipation notes shall be subject to specific Council approval prior to issuance.

## **SECTION 8. RESERVE FUNDS.**

The following Designated Reserve Funds are established and fully funded:

**Emergency Recovery Fund** – This fund shall be funded at an amount equal to or greater than fifteen (15) percent of the current fiscal year General Fund expenditure amount. For Fiscal Year 2017, this amount is established at \$2,394,958.

**Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Reserve Fund** – This reserve shall be funded at an amount equal to 115% of the designated assets' prior completed fiscal year's depreciation cost from uncommitted Fund Balance. This funding will occur in years in which there is a positive net change in the prior year's fund balance. In addition, any insurance proceeds from totaled vehicles and proceeds from the sale of vehicles and equipment will be designated as reserved for future vehicle or equipment purchases. Debt Service requirements (lease principal and interest payments) are charged to Department Cost Centers and reduce the Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Reserve each year. For Fiscal Year 2018, this amount is established at \$705,262.

## **SECTION 9. COMPENSATION OF COUNCILMEMBERS.**

The mayor and town councilmembers shall be provided individual health insurance coverage at town expense as set through the annual town budget. The town reserves the right to change or modify its health insurance program from time to time, and continue coverage as is available under the health insurance program. A former councilmember's election to continue coverage under the town's health insurance program must be made at the time the member leaves office, when the member is first eligible to elect continued health insurance coverage. If the member fails to elect to continue coverage under the town's health insurance program at the time the member is first eligible, the former member may not later

elect to participate. Also, if the former member elects to participate in the town's health insurance program after leaving office and later stops participating or the coverage ceases due to the member's failure to pay the required premiums, the member shall not be allowed to rejoin or re-elect health insurance coverage under the town's program. The mayor and town councilmembers shall be responsible for 100 percent of any spouse or dependent coverage for health insurance.

Pursuant to S.C. Code 1976, 5-7-170, this compensation change shall not go into effect until the commencement date of the terms of two or more members of town council elected at the next general election following the adoption of this section.

The annual salaries of mayor and councilmembers remain for the mayor, \$15,000, and for councilmembers, \$10,000, and participation in the retirement plan if selected.

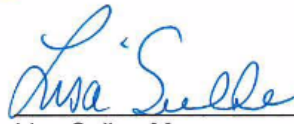
#### **SECTION 10. SEVERABILITY.**

Should any section, phrase, sentence or portion of this Ordinance be found invalid by a court or competent jurisdiction, such finding shall not invalidate the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

#### **SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Ordinance shall be effective on July 1, 2017.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON ON THIS 13<sup>th</sup> DAY OF June, 2017.**

  
 Lisa Sulka, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
 Kimberly Chapman, Town Clerk

First Reading: May 9, 2017

Second and Final Reading: June 13, 2017